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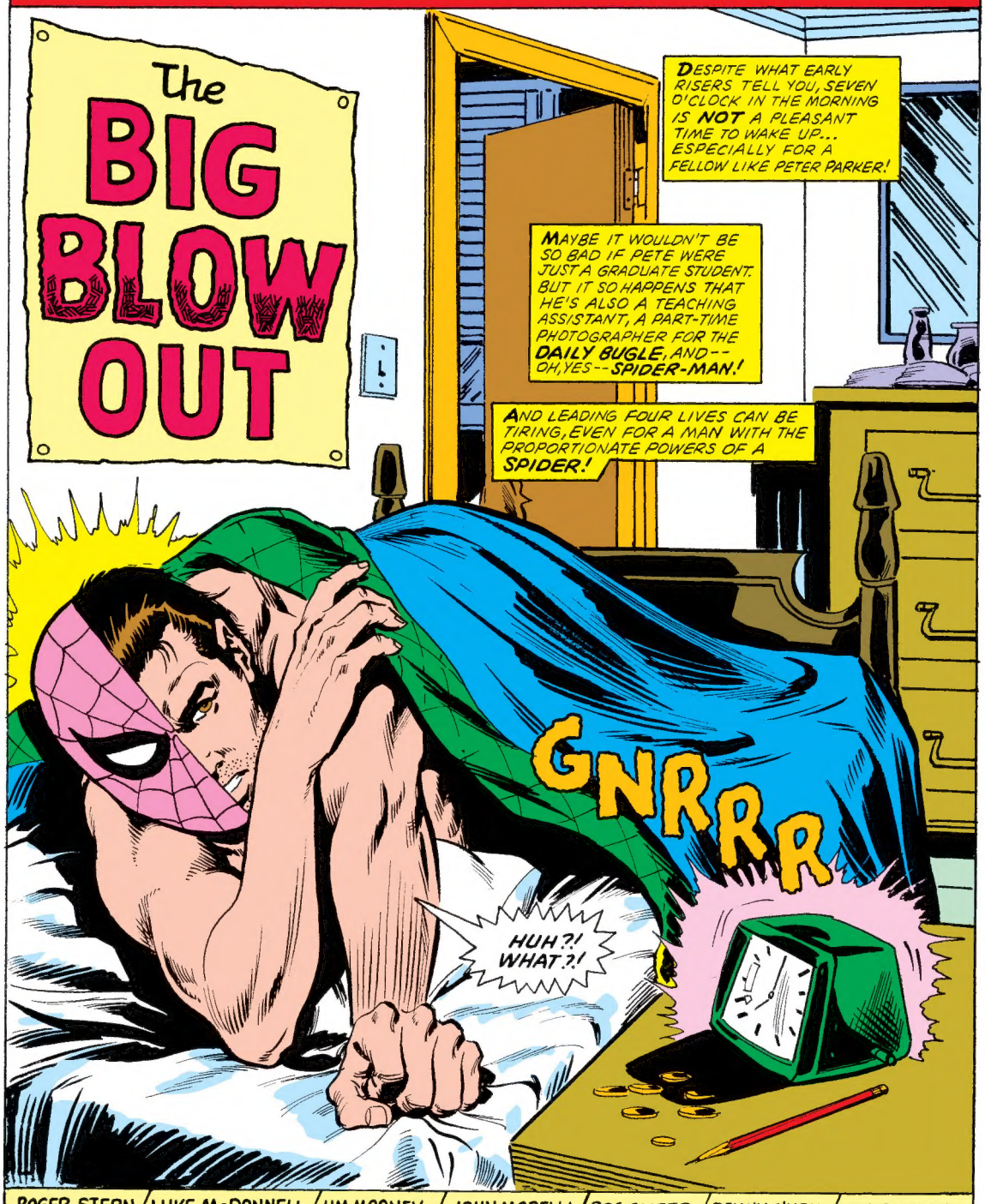
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN®

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter gained the arachnid's powers... and in effect, became a human spider...

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!®



ROGER STERN	LUKE McDONNELL	JIM MOONEY	JOHN MORELLI	ROG SLIFER	DENNY O'NEIL	JIM SHOOTER
WRITER	PENCILER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	EDITOR	WAKE-UP CALLS

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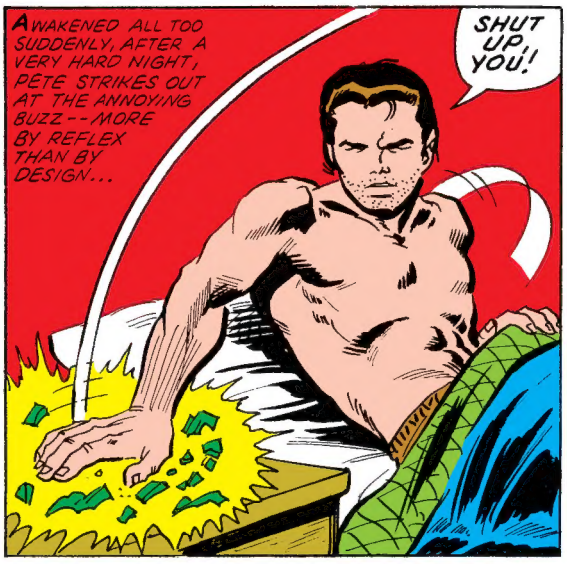
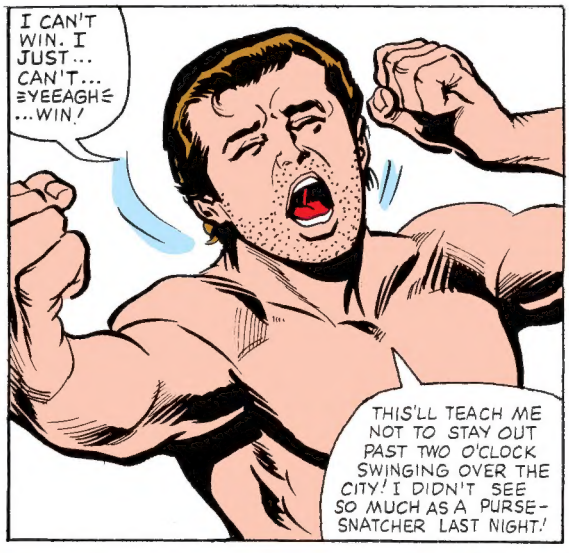
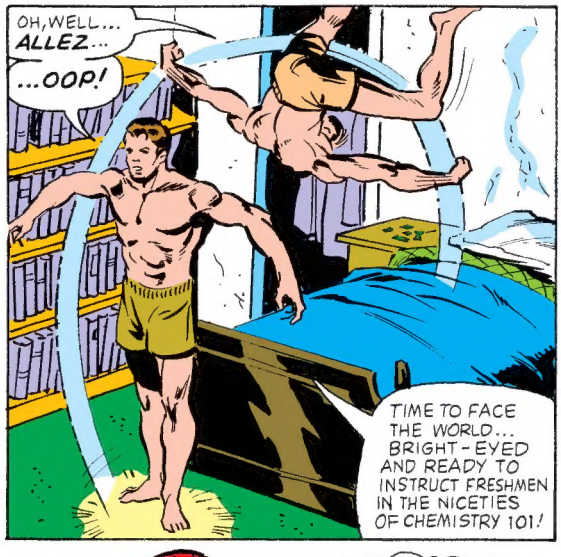
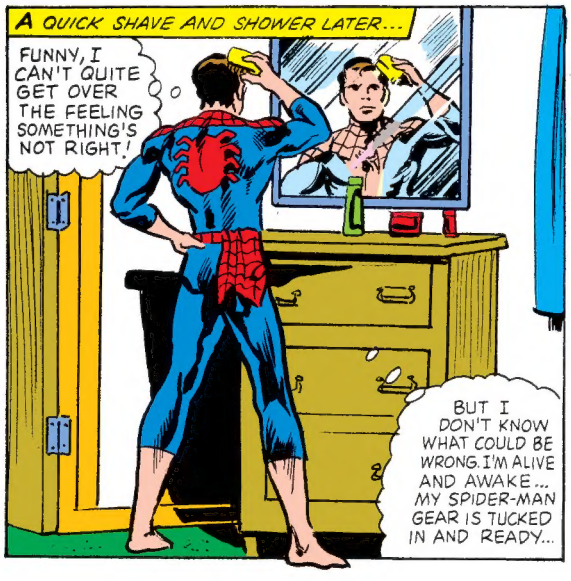

AWAKENED ALL TOO SUDDENLY, AFTER A VERY HARD NIGHT, PETE STRIKES OUT AT THE ANNOYING BUZZ--MORE BY REFLEX THAN BY DESIGN...
SHUT UP, YOU!

OH, NO. WHAT HAVE I DONE?
I FINALLY GET AN ALARM CLOCK THAT WORKS, AND THEN I GO AND SMASH THE STUPID THING!

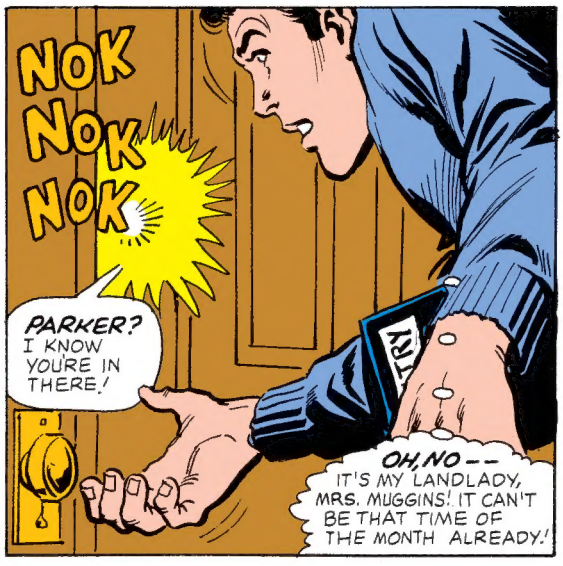

I CAN'T WIN. I JUST... CAN'T... EYEEAGH ...WIN!
THIS'LL TEACH ME NOT TO STAY OUT PAST TWO O'CLOCK SWINGING OVER THE CITY! I DIDN'T SEE SO MUCH AS A PURSE-SNATCHER LAST NIGHT!

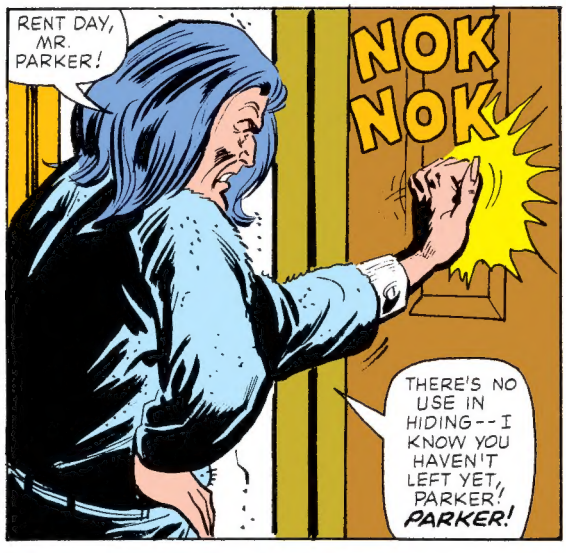

OH, WELL... ALLEZ...
...OOP!
TIME TO FACE THE WORLD... BRIGHT-EYED AND READY TO INSTRUCT FRESHMEN IN THE NICETIES OF CHEMISTRY 101!

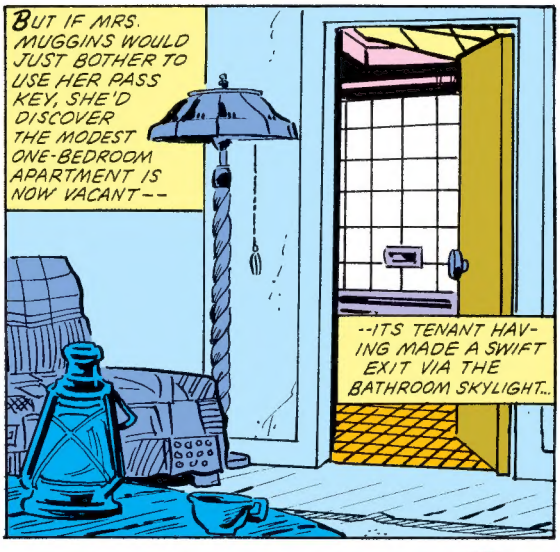

A QUICK SHAVE AND SHOWER LATER...
FUNNY, I CAN'T QUITE GET OVER THE FEELING SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT!
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD BE WRONG. I'M ALIVE AND AWAKE... MY SPIDER-MAN GEAR IS TUCKED IN AND READY...

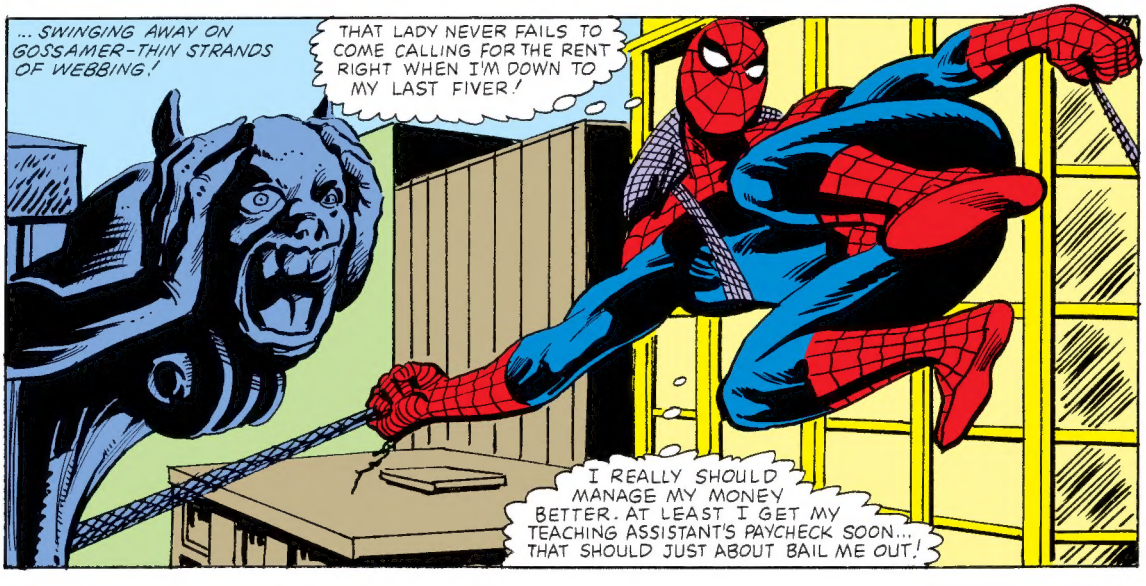
... I EVEN HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO SLIP ON MY STREET CLOTHES AND TAKE A BUS TO THE CAMPUS FOR A CHANGE--LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN BEING!
NOT THAT I AM--!

IT MUST BE MY IMAGINATION! I'M JUST GETTING PARANOID IN MY OLD AGE!
GOT MY BOOKS ...GOT MY KEYS ... GOT MY WALLET...WHAT COULD GO WRONG?!

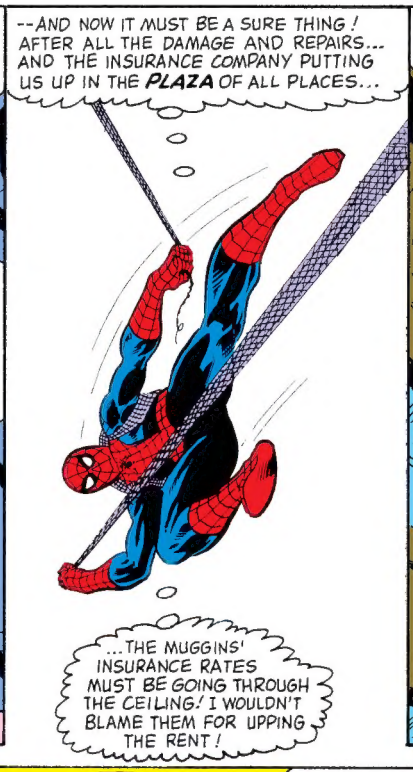

NOK NOK NOK
PARKER? I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
OH, NO -- IT'S MY LANDLADY, MRS. MUGGINS! IT CAN'T BE THAT TIME OF THE MONTH ALREADY!


RENT DAY, MR. PARKER!
NOK NOK
THERE'S NO USE IN HIDING -- I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET, PARKER! PARKER!

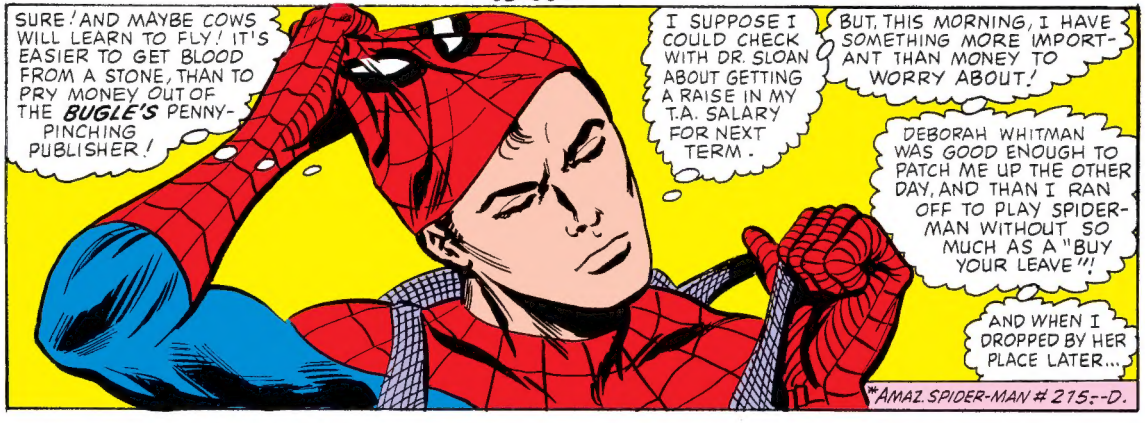

BUT IF MRS. MUGGINS WOULD JUST BOTHER TO USE HER PASS KEY, SHE'D DISCOVER THE MODEST ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IS NOW VACANT --
--ITS TENANT HAVING MADE A SWIFT EXIT VIA THE BATHROOM SKYLIGHT...

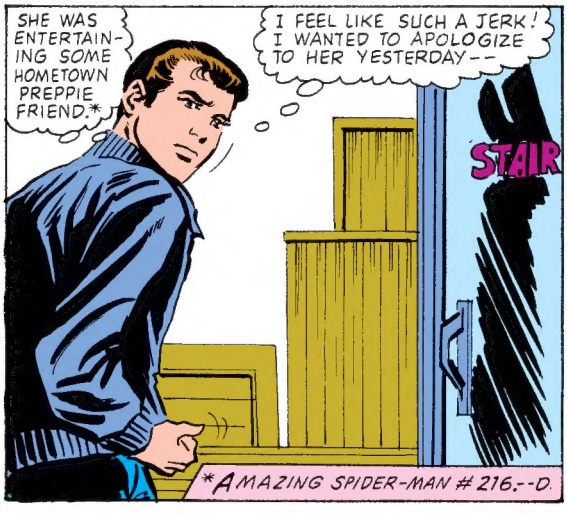

... SWINGING AWAY ON GOSSAMER-THIN STRANDS OF WEBBING!
THAT LADY NEVER FAILS TO COME CALLING FOR THE RENT RIGHT WHEN I'M DOWN TO MY LAST FIVER!
I REALLY SHOULD MANAGE MY MONEY BETTER. AT LEAST I GET MY TEACHING ASSISTANT'S PAYCHECK SOON... THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT BAIL ME OUT!

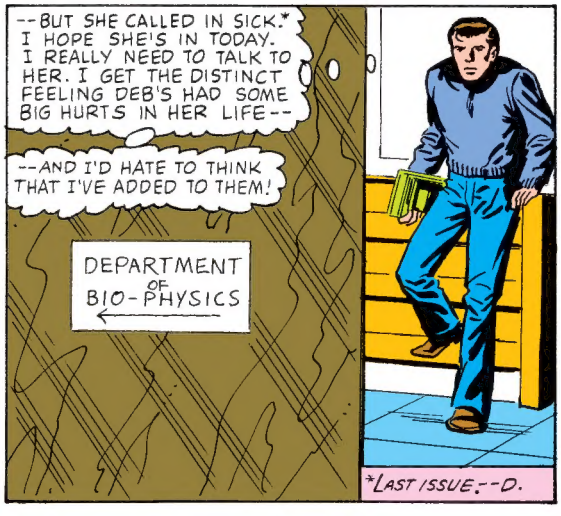
YEAH... FOR THIS MONTH! BUT WHAT WITH THAT FIRE WE HAD A FEW WEEKS AGO,* I'M AFRAID THAT A RENT INCREASE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
THERE WAS TALK OF A RENT HIKE BEFORE THE FIRE--
*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #214.--DENNY.

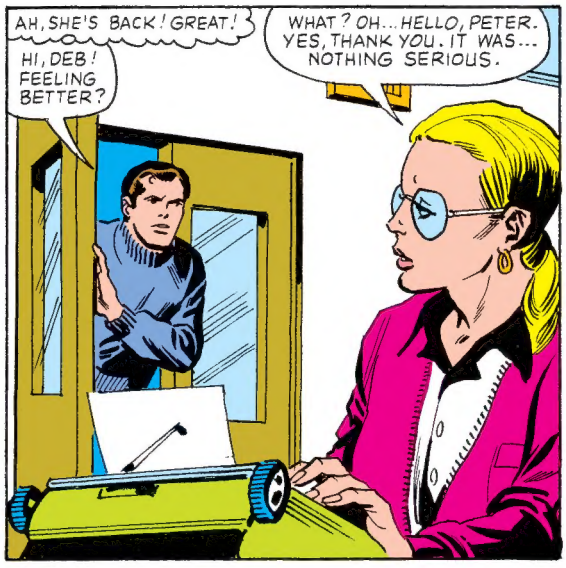

--AND NOW IT MUST BE A SURE THING! AFTER ALL THE DAMAGE AND REPAIRS... AND THE INSURANCE COMPANY PUTTING US UP IN THE PLAZA OF ALL PLACES...
...THE MUGGINS' INSURANCE RATES MUST BE GOING THROUGH THE CEILING! I WOULDN'T BLAME THEM FOR UPPING THE RENT!

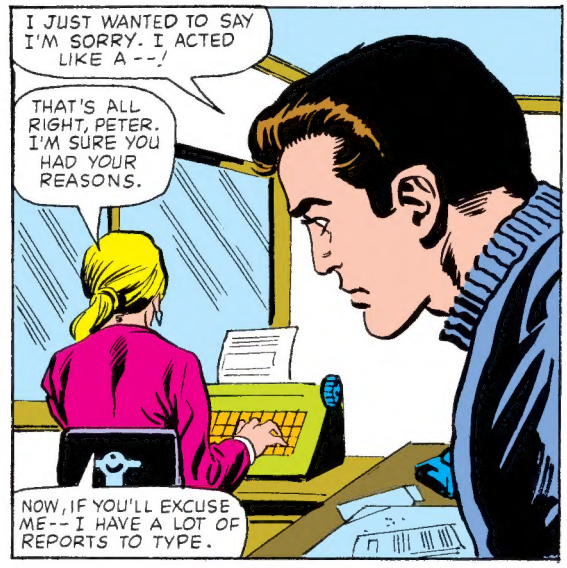
BUT AN INCREASE WOULD PUT QUITE A STRAIN ON MY BANK BOOK!
MAYBE I COULD TALK JONAH JAMESON INTO RAISING MY PHOTO RATE!

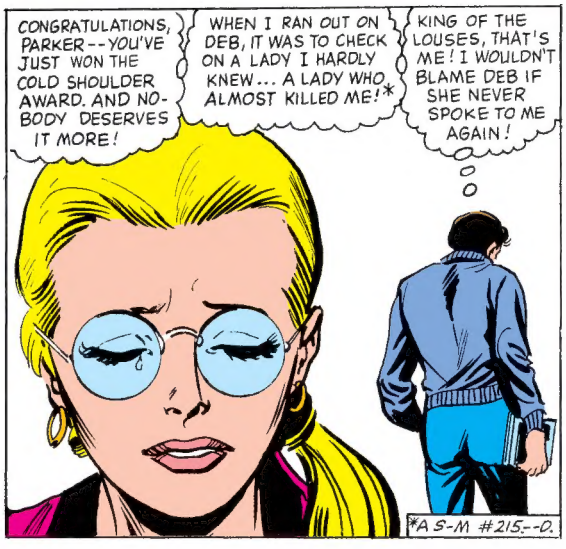

SURE! AND MAYBE COWS WILL LEARN TO FLY! IT'S EASIER TO GET BLOOD FROM A STONE, THAN TO PRY MONEY OUT OF THE BUGLE'S PENNY-PINCHING PUBLISHER!
I SUPPOSE I COULD CHECK WITH DR. SLOAN ABOUT GETTING A RAISE IN MY T.A. SALARY FOR NEXT TERM.
BUT, THIS MORNING, I HAVE SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY TO WORRY ABOUT!
DEBORAH WHITMAN WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO PATCH ME UP THE OTHER DAY, AND THAN I RAN OFF TO PLAY SPIDER-MAN WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "BUY YOUR LEAVE"!
AND WHEN I DROPPED BY HER PLACE LATER...
*AMAZ. SPIDER-MAN #215.--D.


SHE WAS ENTERTAINING SOME HOMETOWN PREPPIE FRIEND.*
I FEEL LIKE SUCH A JERK! I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO HER YESTERDAY--
STAIR
*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #216.--D.


--BUT SHE CALLED IN SICK.* I HOPE SHE'S IN TODAY. I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO HER. I GET THE DISTINCT FEELING DEB'S HAD SOME BIG HURTS IN HER LIFE--
--AND I'D HATE TO THINK THAT I'VE ADDED TO THEM!
DEPARTMENT OF BIO-PHYSICS
*LAST ISSUE.--D.

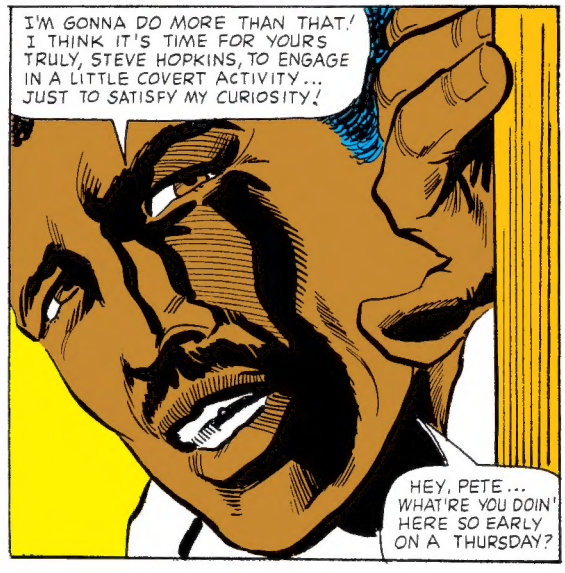

AH, SHE'S BACK! GREAT!
HI, DEB! FEELING BETTER?
WHAT? OH... HELLO, PETER. YES, THANK YOU. IT WAS... NOTHING SERIOUS.

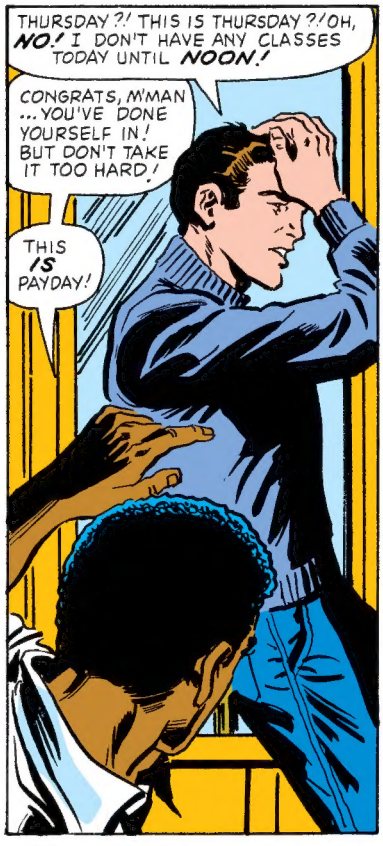

I JUST WANTED TO SAY I'M SORRY. I ACTED LIKE A --!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, PETER. I'M SURE YOU HAD YOUR REASONS.
NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME-- I HAVE A LOT OF REPORTS TO TYPE.

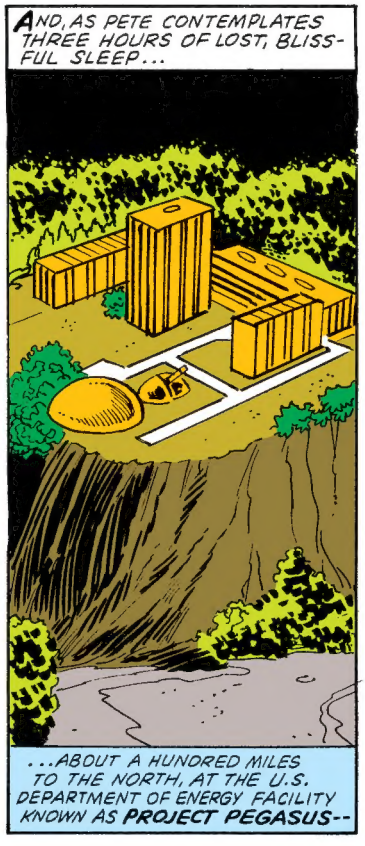

CONGRATULATIONS, PARKER--YOU'VE JUST WON THE COLD SHOULDER AWARD. AND NOBODY DESERVES IT MORE!
WHEN I RAN OUT ON DEB, IT WAS TO CHECK ON A LADY I HARDLY KNEW... A LADY WHO ALMOST KILLED ME!*
KING OF THE LOUSES, THAT'S ME! I WOULDN'T BLAME DEB IF SHE NEVER SPOKE TO ME AGAIN!
*A S-M #215--O.

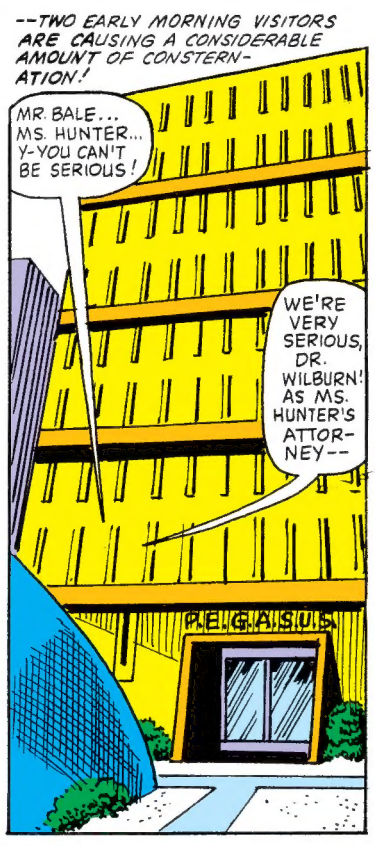
I WISH A TEN TON WEIGHT WOULD FALL ON ME!
EH? MARCY?
ONE SIDE, PARKER!
DR. SLOA
IS THIS SOME NEW FASHION, OR HAVE YOU JOINED THE ROYAL SCOTS GUARD?
"HAH-- HAH"... VERY FUNNY!

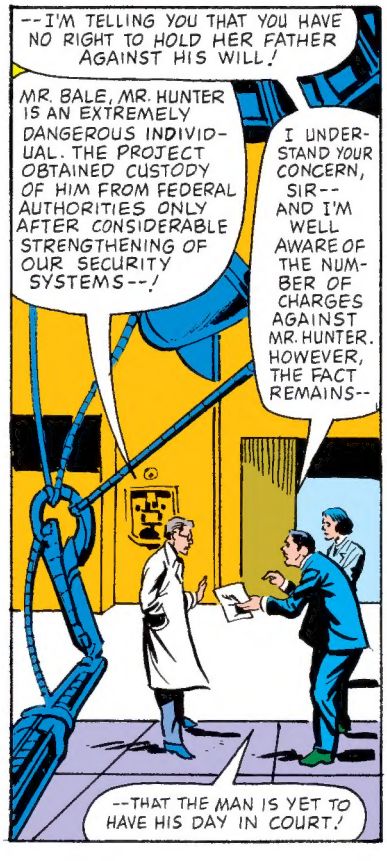
SEE, PETE--IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU, MARCY WEARS SOME DIFFRENT KIND OF HEADGEAR EVERY DAY.
UH-HUH. YOU GOING TO ADD THE "TAM-O-SHANTER" TO YOUR TALLY SHEET, STEVE?


I'M GONNA DO MORE THAN THAT! I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOURS TRULY, STEVE HOPKINS, TO ENGAGE IN A LITTLE COVERT ACTIVITY... JUST TO SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!
HEY, PETE... WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE SO EARLY ON A THURSDAY?


THURSDAY?! THIS IS THURSDAY?! OH, NO! I DON'T HAVE ANY CLASSES TODAY UNTIL NOON!
CONGRATS, M'MAN ...YOU'VE DONE YOURSELF IN! BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD!
THIS IS PAYDAY!


AND, AS PETE CONTEMPLATES THREE HOURS OF LOST, BLISSFUL SLEEP...
...ABOUT A HUNDRED MILES TO THE NORTH, AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITY KNOWN AS PROJECT PEGASUS--


--TWO EARLY MORNING VISITORS ARE CAUSING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF CONSTERNATION!
MR. BALE... MS. HUNTER... Y-YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WE'RE VERY SERIOUS, DR. WILBURN! AS MS. HUNTER'S ATTORNEY--
PEGASUS

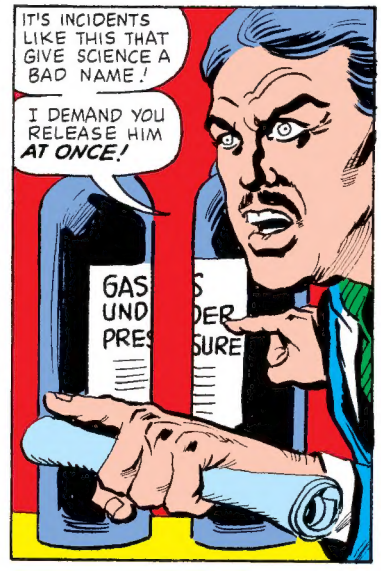

--I'M TELLING YOU THAT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO HOLD HER FATHER AGAINST HIS WILL!
MR. BALE, MR. HUNTER IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS INDIVIDUAL. THE PROJECT OBTAINED CUSTODY OF HIM FROM FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ONLY AFTER CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF OUR SECURITY SYSTEMS--!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, SIR-- AND I'M WELL AWARE OF THE NUMBER OF CHARGES AGAINST MR. HUNTER. HOWEVER, THE FACT REMAINS--
--THAT THE MAN IS YET TO HAVE HIS DAY IN COURT!

YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM HERE TO USE AS A GUINEA PIG FOR YOUR ENERGY EXPERIMENTS! NOT WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW OR HIS CONSENT!
I HAVE A WRIT HERE WHICH DEMANDS YOU TURN HIM OVER TO HIS DAUGHTER'S CUSTODY!
VERY WELL, BALE-- YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER!

HELLO, COMPOUND? THIS IS DR. WILBURN AT SURFACE LEVEL ONE. BRING UP SUBJECT "N".
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, VIRGINIA. YOU'LL SOON HAVE YOUR FATHER BACK.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, EMERSON!
SAVE THE THANKS UNTIL YOU SEE MY BILL!

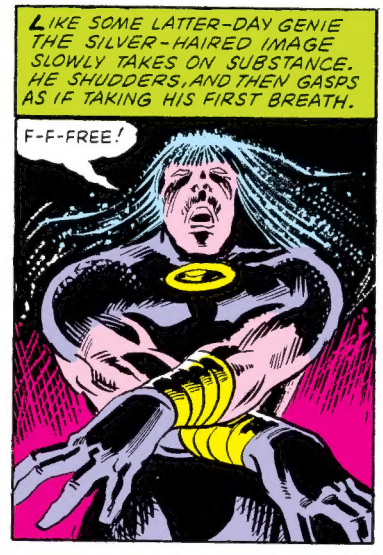
SHORTLY...
HERE HE IS, SIR.
THANK YOU, FINCH.
EH? WHAT THE DEVIL IS THIS?

THIS IS ROBERT HUNTER, MR. BALE. HE WAS APPREHENDED IN A GASEOUS STATE AND SIPHONED OFF INTO SEPARATE TANKS TO PREVENT HIM FROM REFORMING.
DADDY'S IN... THERE?
THIS... THIS IS MONSTROUS!


IT'S INCIDENTS LIKE THIS THAT GIVE SCIENCE A BAD NAME!
I DEMAND YOU RELEASE HIM AT ONCE!

YOU HEARD THE MAN, FINCH.
YES, SIR. I JUST HOPE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING!
SLOWLY, TENDRILS OF SWEET-SMELLING VAPOR POUR FROM THE TWIN TANKS--

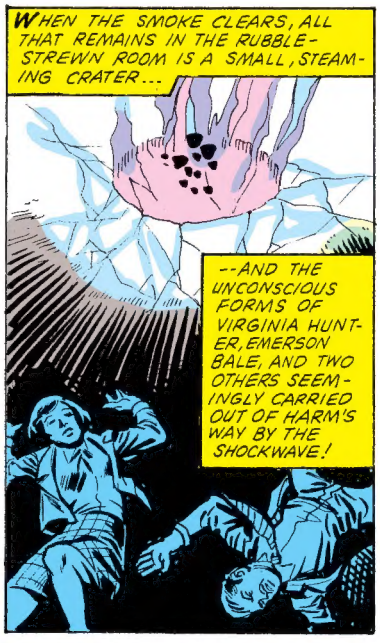
--ROLLING, CONDENSING, AND FINALLY TAKING ON THE FORM OF A MAN--!


LIKE SOME LATTER-DAY GENIE THE SILVER-HAIRED IMAGE SLOWLY TAKES ON SUBSTANCE. HE SHUDDERS, AND THEN GASPS AS IF TAKING HIS FIRST BREATH.
F-F-FREE!

DADDY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
EH? VIRGINIA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JUST RELAX, MR. HUNTER. I'M YOUR DAUGHTER'S ATTORNEY IF YOU'LL JUST WAIT, WE'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!

NO! I'M NOT WAITING FOR ANYTHING! I'M LEAVING-- NOW!
SIR, WHAT--?
GET BACK, FINCH! I'M FAMILIAR WITH HIS FILE! THAT GLOW MEANS HE'S ABOUT TO--!

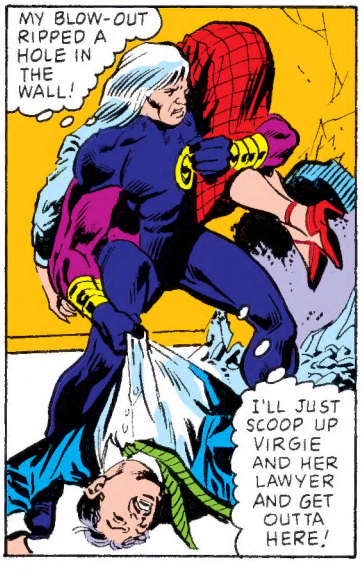
DR. WILBURN'S WORDS ARE ABRUPTLY CUT OFF, AS THE PURPLE-CLAD MAN SUDDENLY EXPLODES WITH NIGHT-MARISH FORCE!
WAH-BOOM

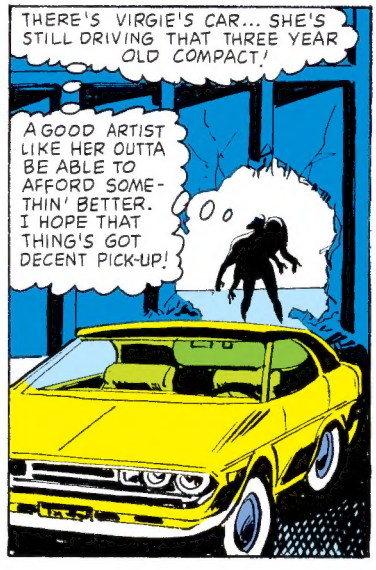

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS, ALL THAT REMAINS IN THE RUBBLE-STREWN ROOM IS A SMALL, STEAMING CRATER...
--AND THE UNCONSCIOUS FORMS OF VIRGINIA HUNTER, EMERSON BALE, AND TWO OTHERS SEEMINGLY CARRIED OUT OF HARM'S WAY BY THE SHOCKWAVE!

AND THEN, THE VAPORS BEGIN TO CONGEAL ONCE MORE, TWISTING AND COMPACTING INTO HUMANOID FORM...

... THE FORM OF ROBERT HUNTER, THE BEING ALSO KNOWN AS NITRO, THE EXPLODING MAN!
HA HA HA HA HA

BREEOOEOE
EH? I MUSTA TRIPPED SOME SECURITY ALARM!
I'D STAY TO FLATTEN THIS PLACE, BUT I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!

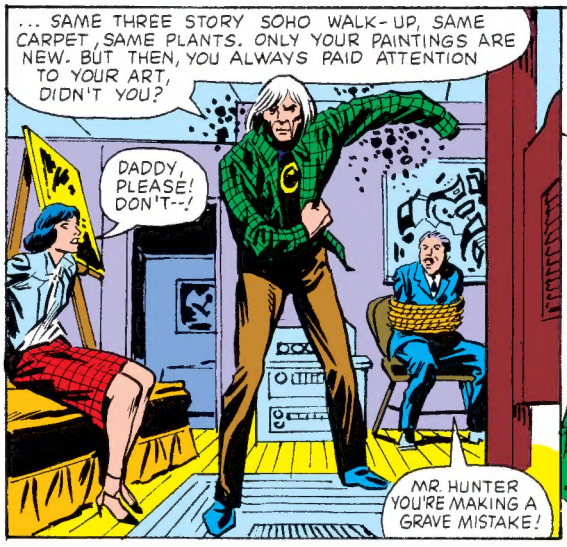

MY BLOW-OUT RIPPED A HOLE IN THE WALL!
I'LL JUST SCOOP UP VIRGIE AND HER LAWYER AND GET OUTTA HERE!


THERE'S VIRGIE'S CAR... SHE'S STILL DRIVING THAT THREE YEAR OLD COMPACT!
A GOOD ARTIST LIKE HER OUTTA BE ABLE TO AFFORD SOMETHIN' BETTER. I HOPE THAT THING'S GOT DECENT PICK-UP!

TIME PASSES--MINUTES TRICKLING BY, TURNING INTO HOURS -- UNTIL FINALLY...
VIRGIE?
HUUNGH?

WAKE UP, VIRGIE! THAT'S IT-- OPEN UP YOUR EYES AND LIVE!
D-DADDY?

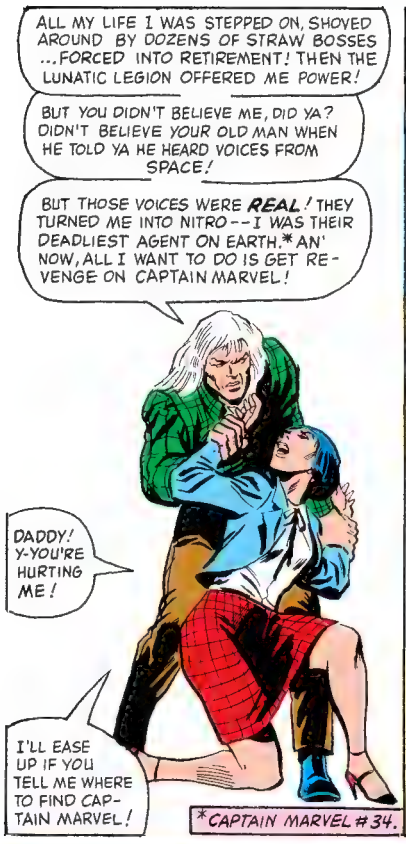
YEAH, IT'S ME-- YOUR LOVIN' OLD MAN. YOU'RE HOME, LITTLE GIRL.
I SEE THAT THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE...


... SAME THREE STORY SOHO WALK-UP, SAME CARPET, SAME PLANTS. ONLY YOUR PAINTINGS ARE NEW. BUT THEN, YOU ALWAYS PAID ATTENTION TO YOUR ART, DIDN'T YOU?
DADDY, PLEASE! DON'T--!
MR. HUNTER YOU'RE MAKING A GRAVE MISTAKE!

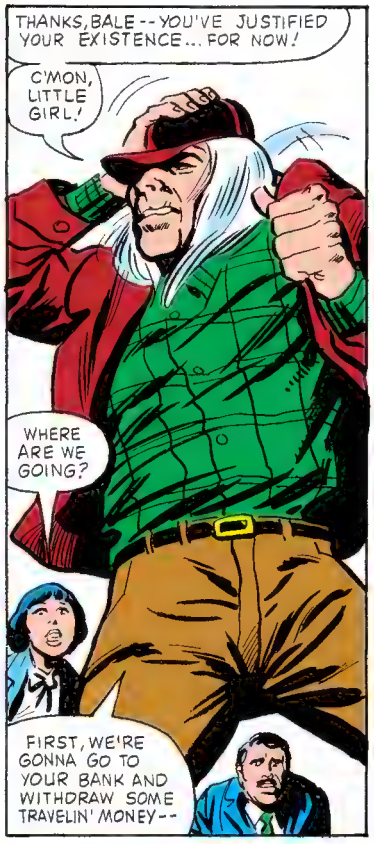
SHADDAP, LAWYER! I'M NOT ROBERT HUNTER ANY-MORE -- I'M NITRO, UNDER-STAND?
PLEASE LISTEN TO HIM, DADDY! MR. BALE WANTS TO HELP YOU!
HELP ME? LIKE YOU TRIED TO HELP ME--

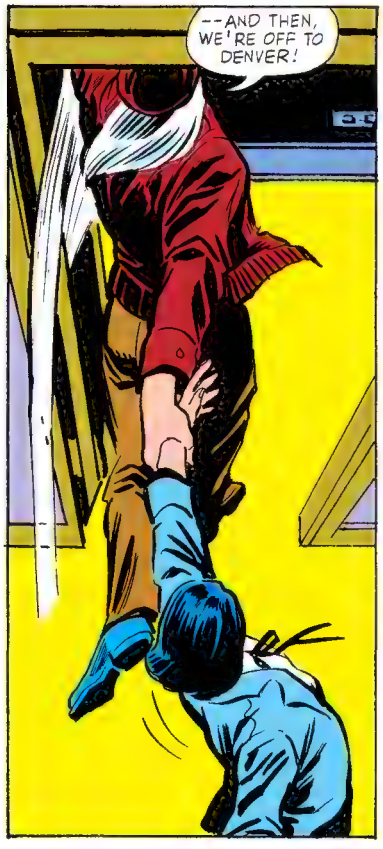
--WHEN YOU TRIED TO HAVE ME COMMITTED?!
SMAK
HUNTER! BE REASON-ABLE, MAN!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO SHUT YOUR TRAP, BALE?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YA? I DON'T HAVE TO BE REASONABLE-- NOT WITH THE POWER I HAVE!


ALL MY LIFE I WAS STEPPED ON, SHOVED AROUND BY DOZENS OF STRAW BOSSES ...FORCED INTO RETIREMENT! THEN THE LUNATIC LEGION OFFERED ME POWER!
BUT YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, DID YA? DIDN'T BELIEVE YOUR OLD MAN WHEN HE TOLD YA HE HEARD VOICES FROM SPACE!
BUT THOSE VOICES WERE REAL! THEY TURNED ME INTO NITRO--I WAS THEIR DEADLIEST AGENT ON EARTH.* AN' NOW, ALL I WANT TO DO IS GET REVENGE ON CAPTAIN MARVEL!
DADDY! Y-YOU'RE HURTING ME!
I'LL EASE UP IF YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND CAPTAIN MARVEL!
*CAPTAIN MARVEL #34.

B-BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS, YOU KNOW I DON'T FOLLOW THE NEWS!
DENVER!
HUH?
CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS RECENTLY IN NEW YORK*, BUT ACCORDING TO LAST NIGHT'S NEWS, HE HAD RETURNED TO DENVER!
*MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #12--D.


THANKS, BALE--YOU'VE JUSTIFIED YOUR EXISTENCE... FOR NOW!
C'MON, LITTLE GIRL!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
FIRST, WE'RE GONNA GO TO YOUR BANK AND WITHDRAW SOME TRAVELIN' MONEY--


--AND THEN, WE'RE OFF TO DENVER!

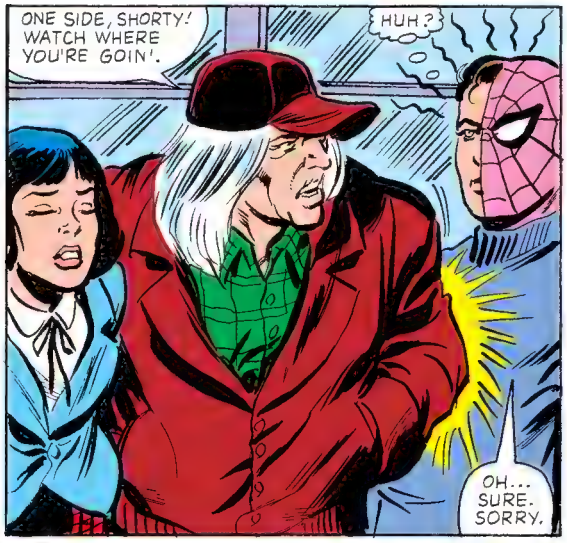
SLAM
WE SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO DR. WILBURN. HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN I WOULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED!
AND I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING HIM FREE! HE MUST BE STOPPED!

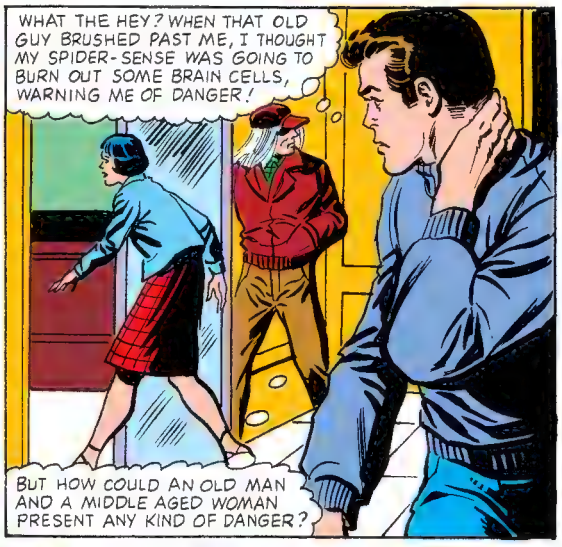
HOBBLING TO THE TABLE, THE DESPERATE LAWYER KNOCKS THE TELEPHONE HANDSET FREE, AND THEN...
THANK HEAVEN FOR PUSH-BUTTON PHONES!
BEEP

OPERATOR... MAY I HELP YOU?
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! GET ME THE POLICE!

MEANWHILE, AT A CERTAIN BRANCH BANK...
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS BEING THURSDAY -- I GOT MY CHECK FROM THE UNIVERSITY FOR PLAYING TEACHER.
NOT THAT THIS LEAVES ME ROLLING IN DOUGH --

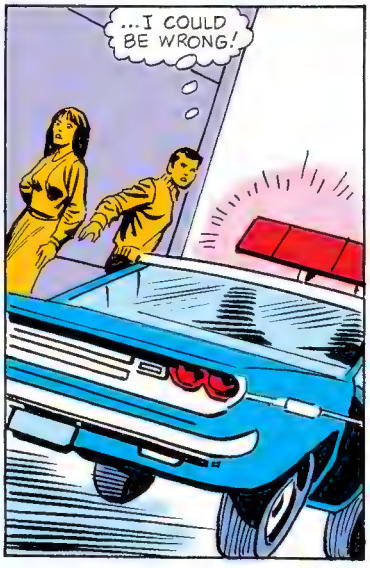
-- BUT AT LEAST NOW I CAN PAY THE RENT... AND MAYBE HAVE ENOUGH LEFT OVER TO BUY A BIG MAC!
SIGH WHY COULDN'T I HAVE BEEN BORN WEALTHY?

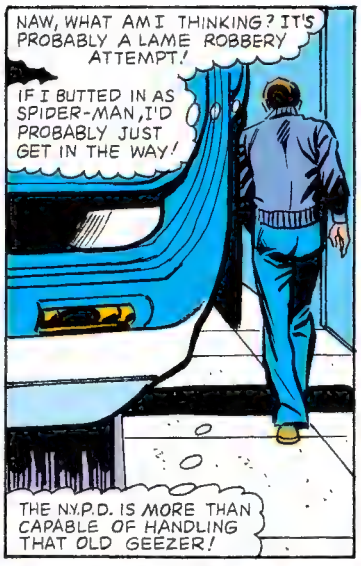

ONE SIDE, SHORTY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'.
HUH?
OH... SURE. SORRY.

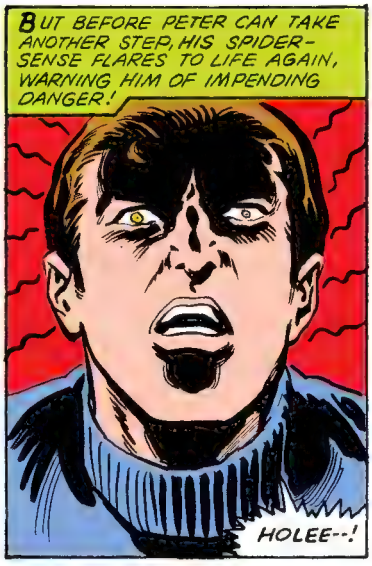

WHAT THE HEY? WHEN THAT OLD GUY BRUSHED PAST ME, I THOUGHT MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS GOING TO BURN OUT SOME BRAIN CELLS, WARNING ME OF DANGER!
BUT HOW COULD AN OLD MAN AND A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN PRESENT ANY KIND OF DANGER?

AW, I MUST HAVE JUST IMAGINED IT!
YEAH, THAT'S IT. MISSING THOSE EXTRA HOURS OF SLEEP HAS MADE ME PUNCHY!

WEEOOO
ON THE OTHER HAND...


...I COULD BE WRONG!

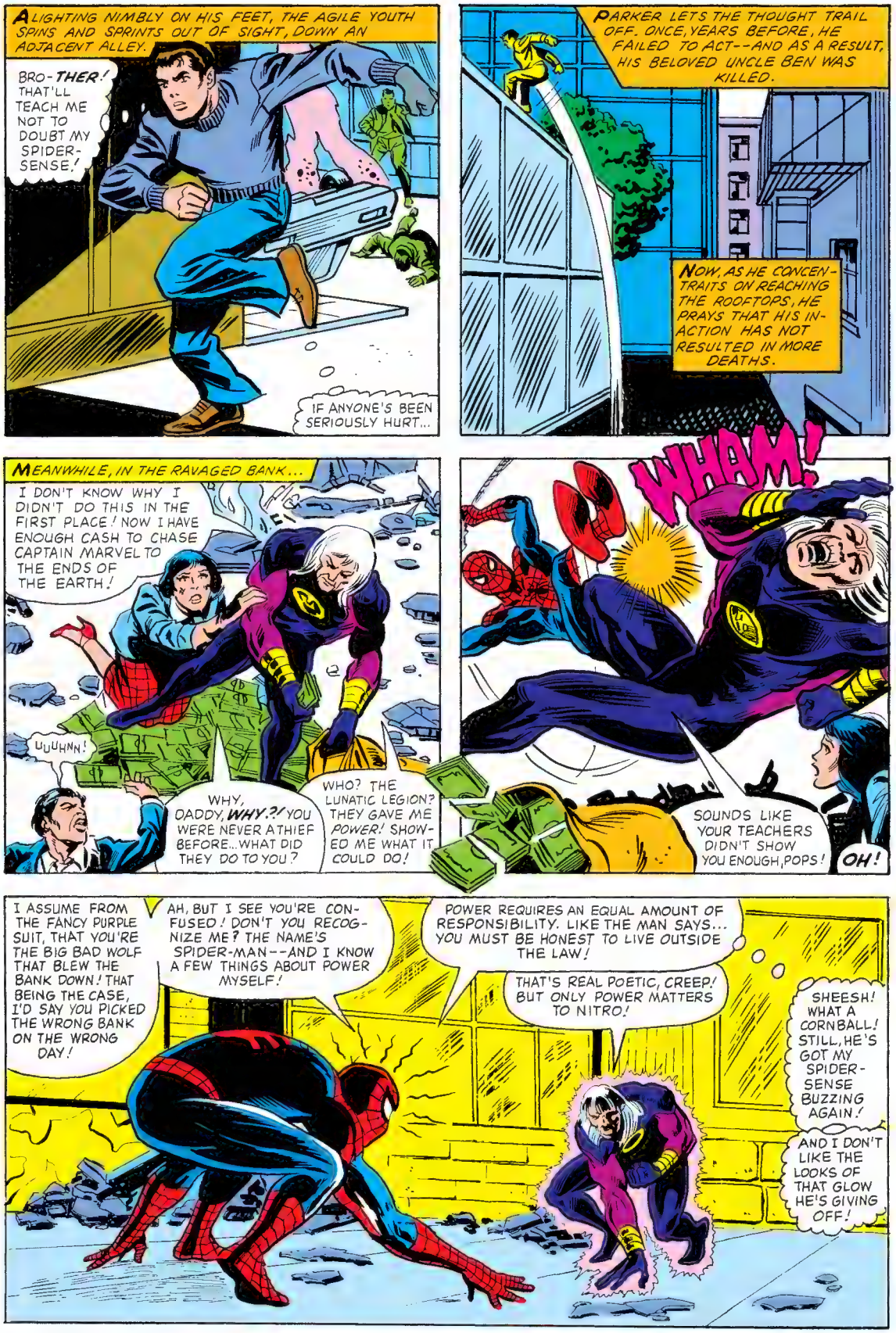


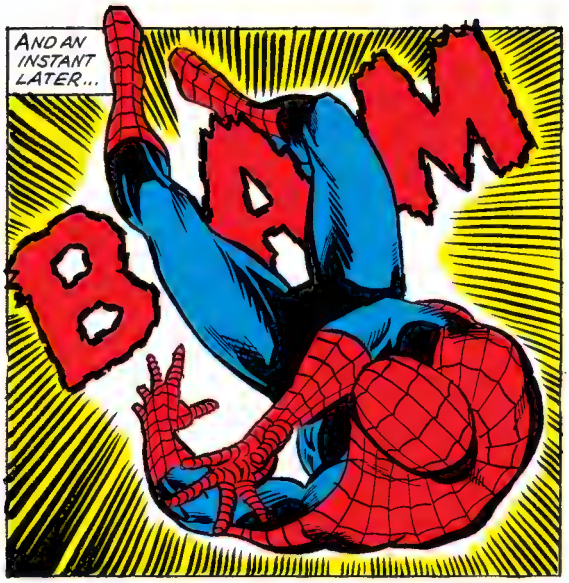


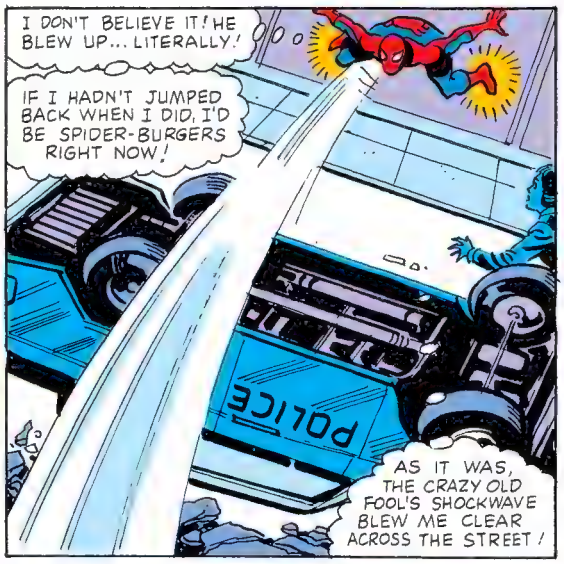
SIMULTANEOUSLY WHIRLING AROUND AND LEAPING BACKWARDS, PETER JUST MANAGES TO RIDE OUT THE SHOCKWAVE OF THE STARTLING EXPLOSION WHICH RIPS THROUGH THE BANK'S GLASS-AND-STEEL FACADE.

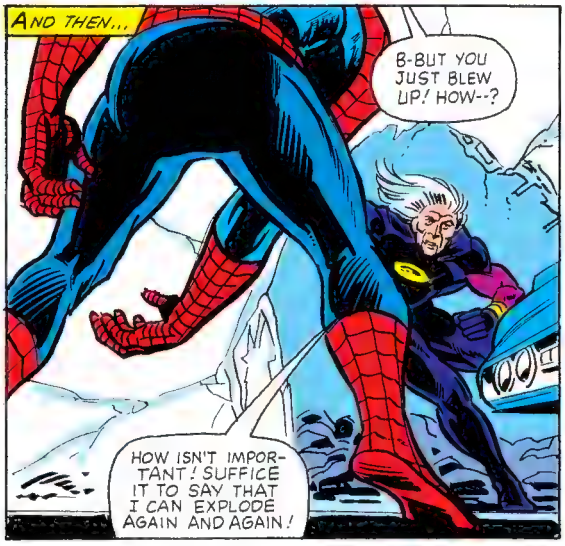
DA-KOOM

POL


ALIGHTING NIMBLY ON HIS FEET, THE AGILE YOUTH SPINS AND SPRINTS OUT OF SIGHT, DOWN AN ADJACENT ALLEY.
BRO-THER! THAT'LL TEACH ME NOT TO DOUBT MY SPIDER-SENSE!
IF ANYONE'S BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT...
PARKER LETS THE THOUGHT TRAIL OFF. ONCE, YEARS BEFORE, HE FAILED TO ACT--AND AS A RESULT, HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN WAS KILLED.
NOW, AS HE CONCENTRATES ON REACHING THE ROOFTOPS, HE PRAYS THAT HIS INACTION HAS NOT RESULTED IN MORE DEATHS.
MEANWHILE, IN THE RAVAGED BANK...
I DON'T KNOW WHY I DIDN'T DO THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE! NOW I HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO CHASE CAPTAIN MARVEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
UUUHNN!
WHY, DADDY, WHY?! YOU WERE NEVER A THIEF BEFORE...WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?
WHO? THE LUNATIC LEGION? THEY GAVE ME POWER! SHOWED ME WHAT IT COULD DO!
WHAM!
SOUNDS LIKE YOUR TEACHERS DIDN'T SHOW YOU ENOUGH, POPS!
OH!
I ASSUME FROM THE FANCY PURPLE SUIT, THAT YOU'RE THE BIG BAD WOLF THAT BLEW THE BANK DOWN! THAT BEING THE CASE, I'D SAY YOU PICKED THE WRONG BANK ON THE WRONG DAY!
AH, BUT I SEE YOU'RE CONFUSED! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? THE NAME'S SPIDER-MAN--AND I KNOW A FEW THINGS ABOUT POWER MYSELF!
POWER REQUIRES AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF RESPONSIBILITY. LIKE THE MAN SAYS... YOU MUST BE HONEST TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE LAW!
THAT'S REAL POETIC, CREEP! BUT ONLY POWER MATTERS TO NITRO!
SHEESH! WHAT A CORNBALL! STILL, HE'S GOT MY SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING AGAIN!
AND I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THAT GLOW HE'S GIVING OFF!

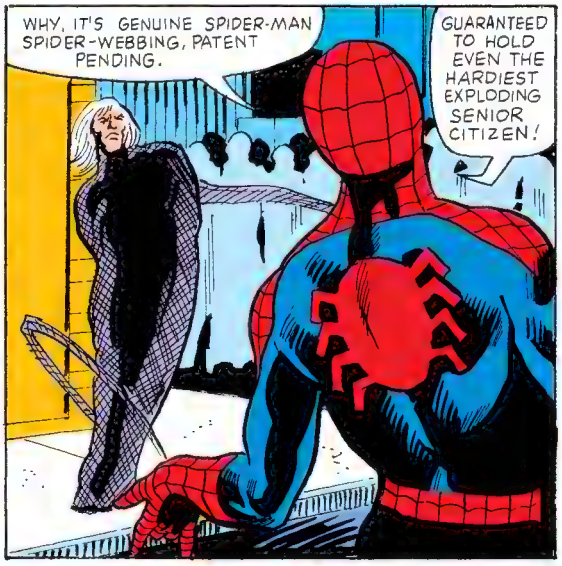

AND AN INSTANT LATER...
BLAM

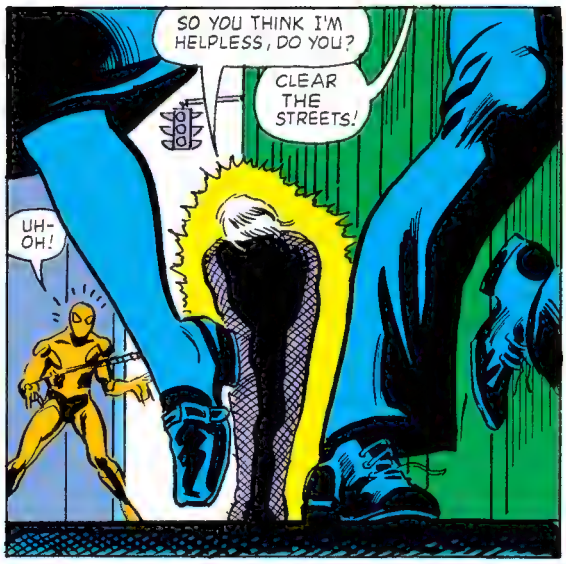

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! HE BLEW UP... LITERALLY!
IF I HADN'T JUMPED BACK WHEN I DID, I'D BE SPIDER-BURGERS RIGHT NOW!
POLICE
AS IT WAS, THE CRAZY OLD FOOL'S SHOCKWAVE BLEW ME CLEAR ACROSS THE STREET!


AND THEN...
B-BUT YOU JUST BLEW UP! HOW--?
HOW ISN'T IMPORTANT! SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I CAN EXPLODE AGAIN AND AGAIN!

WELL, I'LL ADMIT YOU BLOW UP REAL GOOD, BUT YOU'RE NOT MUCH IN THE SPEED DEPARTMENT!
EH?

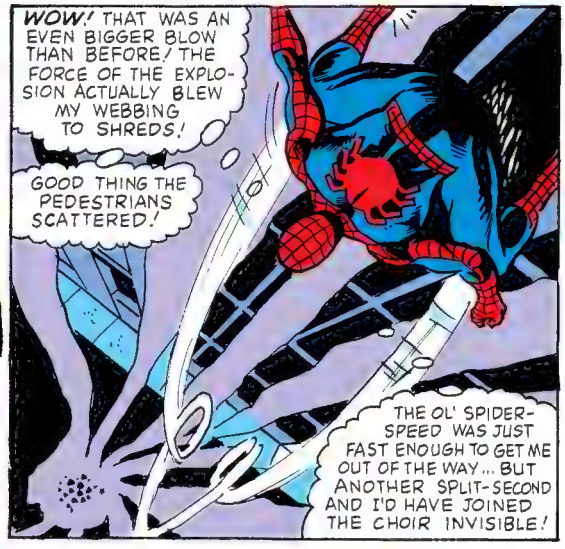
HERE I AM... RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I WRAP THIS UP IN A HURRY!
THWIPP
TWIPP
WHAT IS THIS!?


WHY, IT'S GENUINE SPIDER-MAN SPIDER-WEBBING, PATENT PENDING.
GUARANTEED TO HOLD EVEN THE HARDIEST EXPLODING SENIOR CITIZEN!


SO YOU THINK I'M HELPLESS, DO YOU?
CLEAR THE STREETS!
UH-OH!

I'M NEVER HELPLESS! SURE, I'VE BEEN DEFEATED, BUT NEVER FOR LONG... BECAUSE I CAN'T BE DESTROYED!
BUT YOU CAN!

WHAM


WOW! THAT WAS AN EVEN BIGGER BLOW THAN BEFORE! THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION ACTUALLY BLEW MY WEBBING TO SHREDS!
GOOD THING THE PEDESTRIANS SCATTERED!
THE OL' SPIDER-SPEED WAS JUST FAST ENOUGH TO GET ME OUT OF THE WAY... BUT ANOTHER SPLIT-SECOND AND I'D HAVE JOINED THE CHOIR INVISIBLE!

AND THEN, BEFORE THE WALL-CRAWLER'S STARTLED GAZE, THE MISTS PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER...

YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU...

... NITRO CAN'T BE DESTROYED!

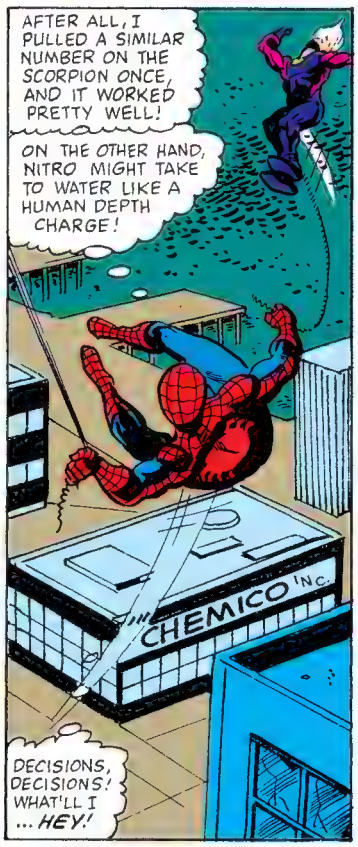
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD TRICK, GRAMPS-- BUT I BET YOU HIT LIKE AN OLD LADY!
HAH! YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST!
THEY ALL THOUGHT MY AGE MADE ME WEAK...HELPLESS... BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN STRONG... AND THE LUNATIC LEGION MADE ME EVEN STRONGER!
IS THAT SO?
GEE, IT'S TO BAD THEY DIDN'T WARN YOU NOT TO TELEGRAPH YOUR PUNCHES!
I FIGURED THAT A FEW OLD-AGE TAUNTS MIGHT MAKE HIM RECKLESS. NOW, I HAVE TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE SO HE CAN'T BLOW UP ON ME AGAIN!
PUNCHING DOESN'T SEEM TO BE YOUR THING-- MAYBE YOU'RE THE FLYING TYPE!
NOPE, NOT TOO GOOD! I CAN JUMP A LOT HIGHER THAN YOU CAN FLY!
TELL YA WHAT, THOUGH--
--I'LL SHOW YOU ONE OF MY TRICKS!
THWIP
THWIP
VOILÁ! THE TWO-HANDED WEB-TOSS!
YOU BLASTED IDIOT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
ME? I'M JUST GOING FOR MY MID-AFTERNOON CONSTITUTIONAL!
WHY DON'TCHA COME ALONG? IT'LL BE FUN!

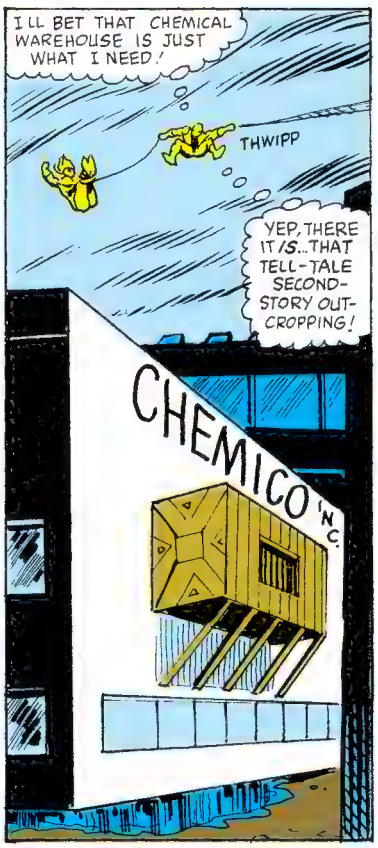
♪OH, HE FLOATS THROUGH THE AIR WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE..♪
HOW'S IT GOING BACK THERE, NITRO ?
PUT...ME...DOWN!

HEH-HEH! I'M SUCH A STINKER!
SWINGING NITRO AROUND LIKE A PENDULUM IS KEEPING HIM SO DIZZY, HE CAN'T CON-CENTRATE ENOUGH TO BLOW UP!

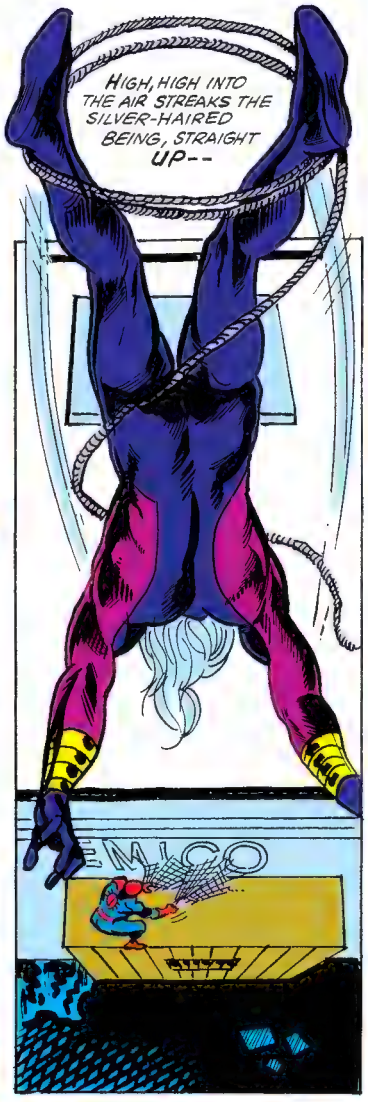
THE ONLY THING IS... WHAT DO I DO NEXT? I CAN'T SWING HIM AROUND TOWN INDEFINITELY!
GEEZ, AN'ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT SPIDER-MAN WAS JUST A GIMMICK THE DAILY BUGLE DREAMED UP TO SELL PAPERS!

SOONER OR LATER I'M GONNA HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS BOZO!
WE'RE GETTING PRETTY CLOSE TO HARBOR...MAYBE A DUNKING WILL DAMPEN HIS FUSE!


AFTER ALL, I PULLED A SIMILAR NUMBER ON THE SCORPION ONCE, AND IT WORKED PRETTY WELL!
ON THE OTHER HAND, NITRO MIGHT TAKE TO WATER LIKE A HUMAN DEPTH CHARGE!
CHEMICO INC.
DECISIONS, DECISIONS! WHAT'LL I ... HEY!


I'LL BET THAT CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE IS JUST WHAT I NEED!
THWIPP
YEP, THERE IT IS...THAT TELL-TALE SECOND-STORY OUT-CROPPING!
CHEMICO INC.

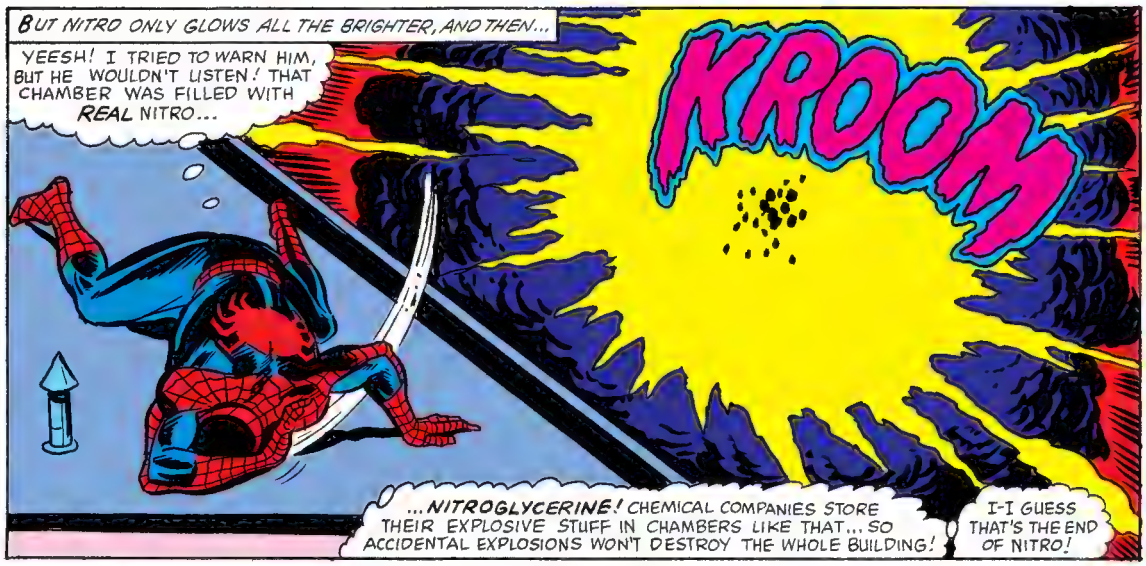
UNLESS MY CHEM PROF WAS PUTTING ME ON WHEN HE GAVE ME HIS LECTURE ON CHEMICAL STORAGE PROCEDURES THAT ADDED CHAMBER SHOULD HAVE JUST WHAT I NEED TO HANDLE GRANDPA KA-BOOM!
AND AWAY HE GOES!

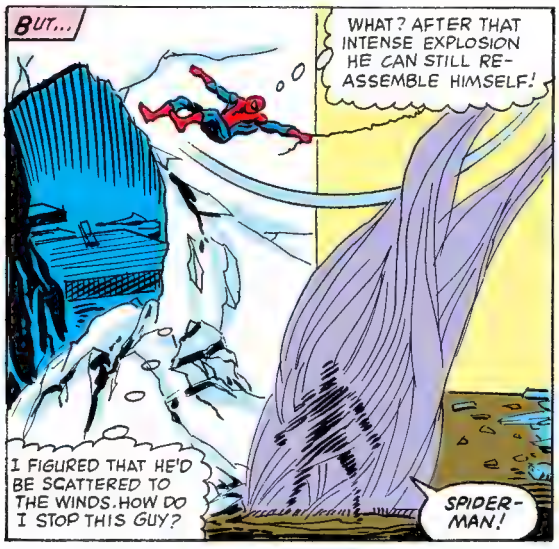

HIGH, HIGH INTO THE AIR STREAKS THE SILVER-HAIRED BEING, STRAIGHT UP--

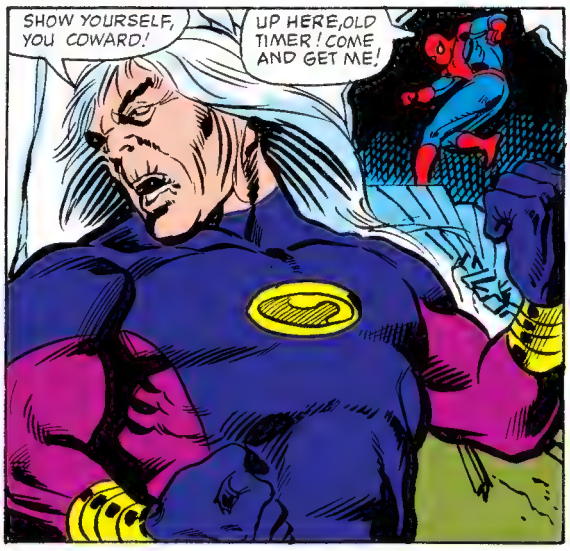
--AND THEN, STRAIGHT DOWN!
YAAHH!
HI, THERE CHUCKLES!
NOT TO WORRY! I'LL MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A NICE SOFT SPOT TO LAND!

FWUMP
AH, BULLSEYE!
NOW I ASK YOU, NITRO... DIDN'T THAT RIDE BEAT CONEY ISLAND ALL HOLLOW?

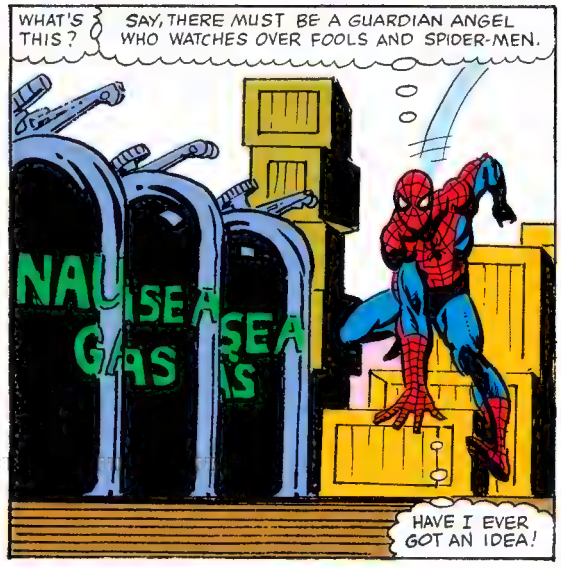
YOU MANIAC! I'M GONNA BLOW MYSELF FREE, AND THEN--!
I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU! YOU'RE SITTING ON A POWDER KEG... SO TO SPEAK!

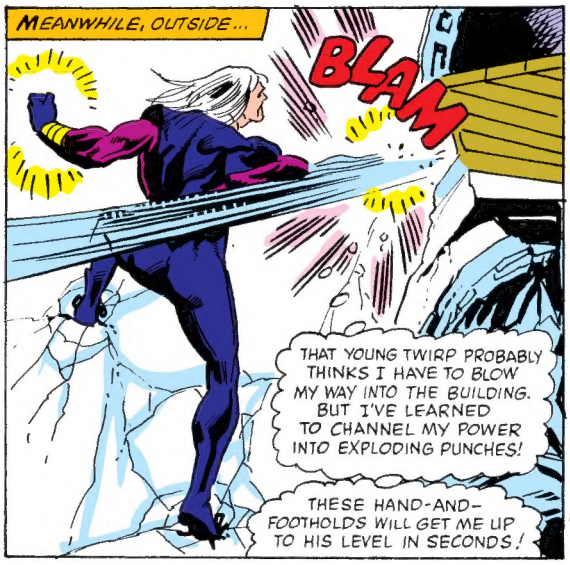

BUT NITRO ONLY GLOWS ALL THE BRIGHTER, AND THEN...
YEESH! I TRIED TO WARN HIM, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN! THAT CHAMBER WAS FILLED WITH REAL NITRO...
KROOM
...NITROGLYCERINE! CHEMICAL COMPANIES STORE THEIR EXPLOSIVE STUFF IN CHAMBERS LIKE THAT... SO ACCIDENTAL EXPLOSIONS WON'T DESTROY THE WHOLE BUILDING!
I-I GUESS THAT'S THE END OF NITRO!

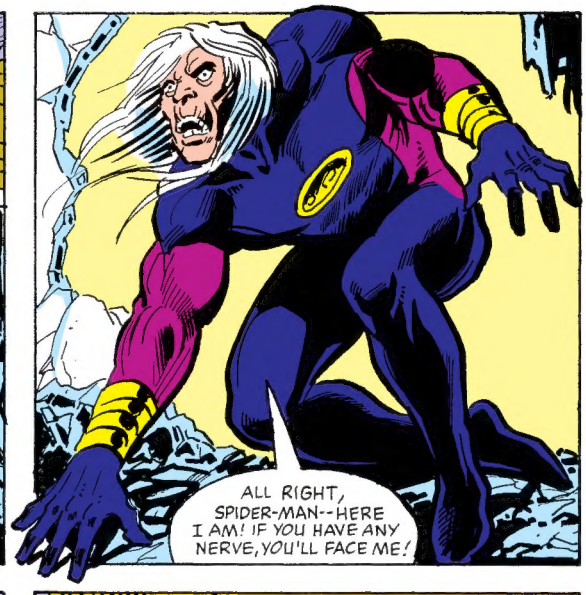

BUT...
WHAT? AFTER THAT INTENSE EXPLOSION HE CAN STILL RE-ASSEMBLE HIMSELF!
I FIGURED THAT HE'D BE SCATTERED TO THE WINDS. HOW DO I STOP THIS GUY?
SPIDER-MAN!


SHOW YOURSELF, YOU COWARD!
UP HERE, OLD TIMER! COME AND GET ME!

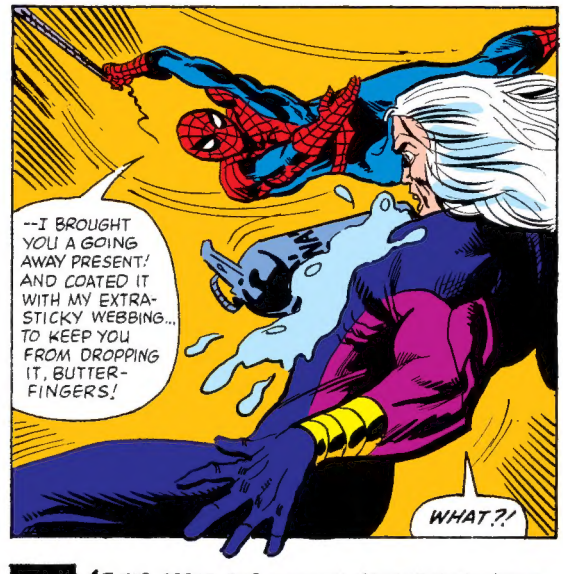
YEAH... PLEASE COME AND BLOW ME TO BITS!
THINK FAST, PARKER! YOU PROBABLY HAVE ALL OF FIVE SECONDS TO THINK OF A WAY TO STOP A GUY WHO CAN'T BE STOPPED!

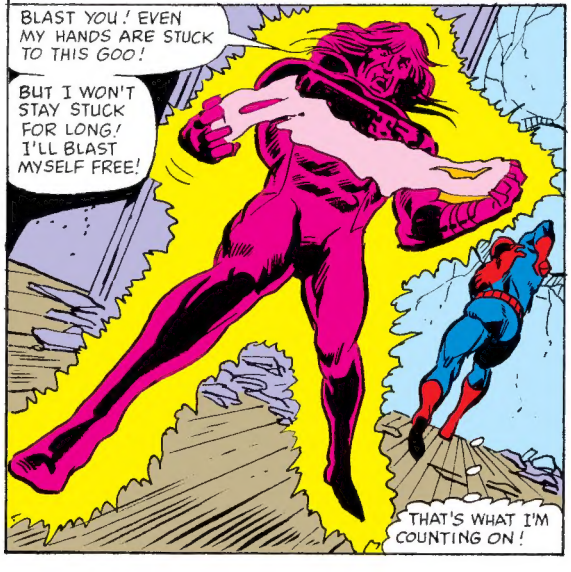

WHAT'S THIS?
SAY, THERE MUST BE A GUARDIAN ANGEL WHO WATCHES OVER FOOLS AND SPIDER-MEN.
HAVE I EVER GOT AN IDEA!

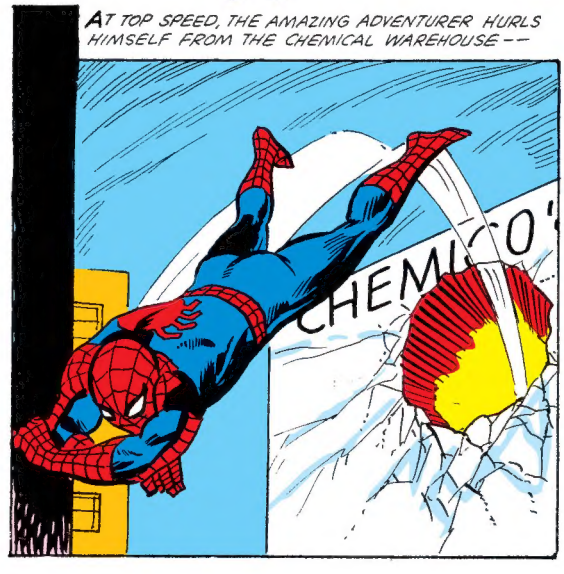

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...
BLAM
THAT YOUNG TWIRP PROBABLY THINKS I HAVE TO BLOW MY WAY INTO THE BUILDING. BUT I'VE LEARNED TO CHANNEL MY POWER INTO EXPLODING PUNCHES!
THESE HAND-AND-FOOTHOLDS WILL GET ME UP TO HIS LEVEL IN SECONDS!

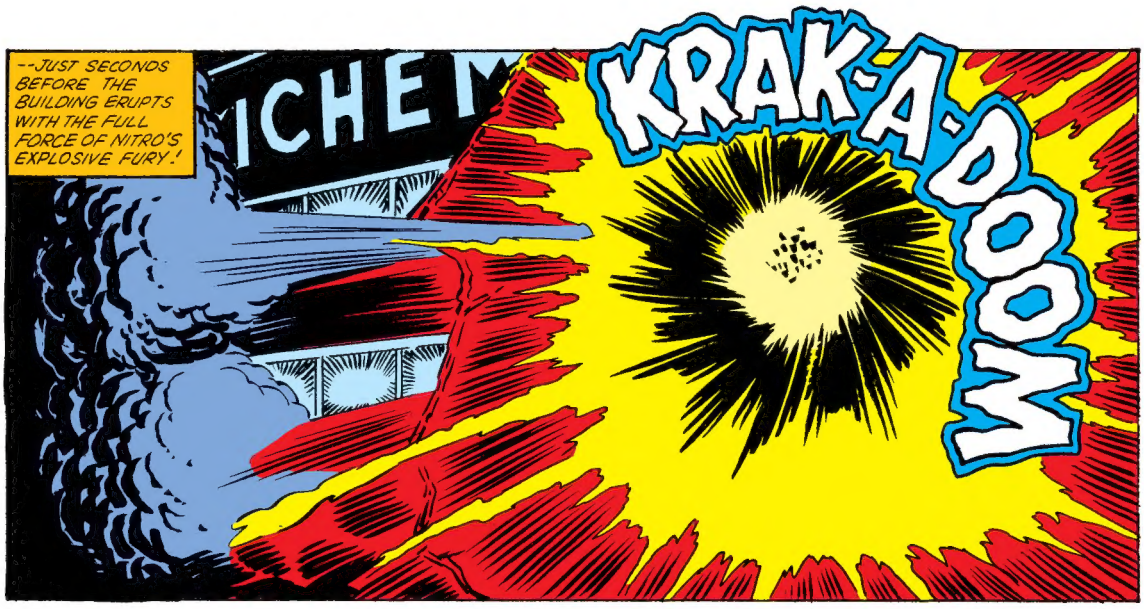

ALL RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN--HERE I AM! IF YOU HAVE ANY NERVE, YOU'LL FACE ME!

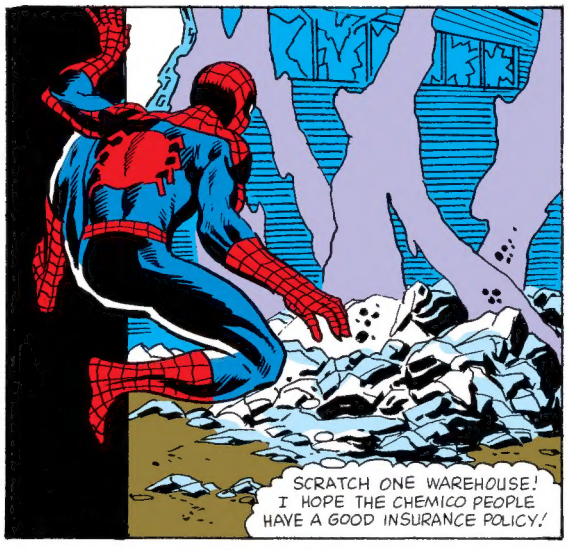
HEY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A PRETTY NERVY GUY... AND THAT'S ONE OF THE NICER THINGS PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ME!
YOU'VE MOCKED ME FOR THE LAST TIME!
GOSH, I HOPE SO! BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE--

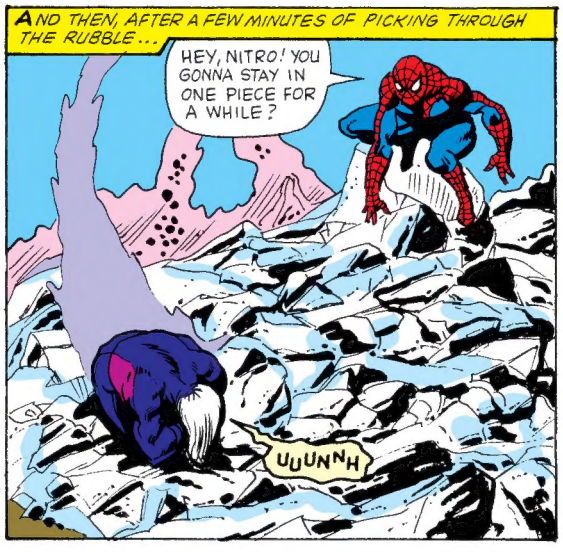

--I BROUGHT YOU A GOING AWAY PRESENT! AND COATED IT WITH MY EXTRA-STICKY WEBBING... TO KEEP YOU FROM DROPPING IT, BUTTER-FINGERS!
WHAT?!


BLAST YOU! EVEN MY HANDS ARE STUCK TO THIS GOO!
BUT I WON'T STAY STUCK FOR LONG! I'LL BLAST MYSELF FREE!
THAT'S WHAT I'M COUNTING ON!

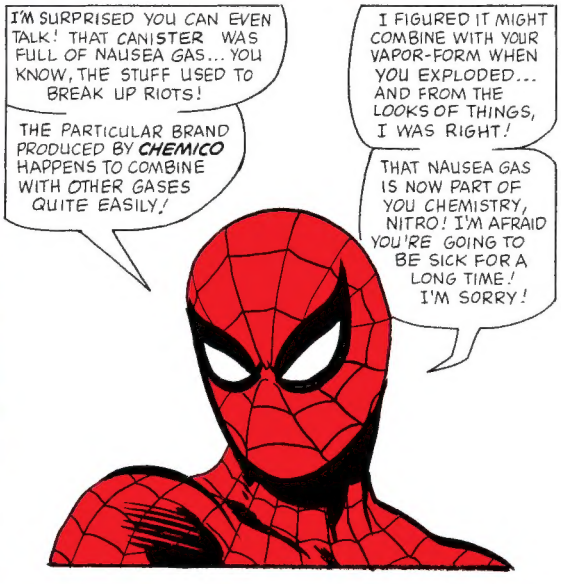

AT TOP SPEED, THE AMAZING ADVENTURER HURLS HIMSELF FROM THE CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE--


--JUST SECONDS BEFORE THE BUILDING ERUPTS WITH THE FULL FORCE OF NITRO'S EXPLOSIVE FURY!
ICHEM
KRAK-A-DOOM


SCRATCH ONE WAREHOUSE! I HOPE THE CHEMICO PEOPLE HAVE A GOOD INSURANCE POLICY!


AND THEN, AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF PICKING THROUGH THE RUBBLE...
HEY, NITRO! YOU GONNA STAY IN ONE PIECE FOR A WHILE?
UUUNNH

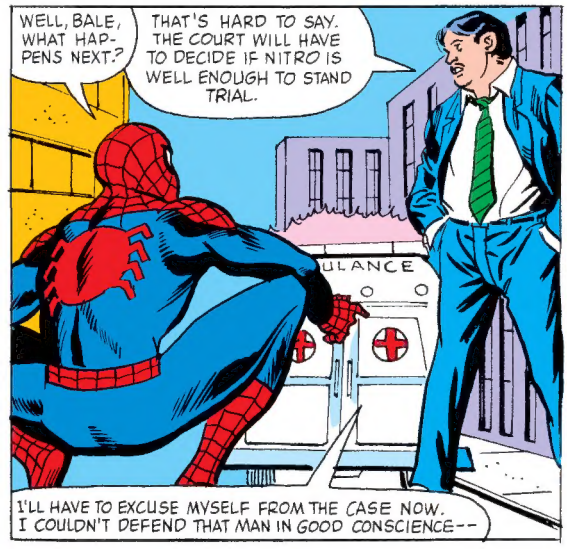
W-WHAT...WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME? I--FEEL AWFUL! C-CAN'T CONCENTRATE ENOUGH TO 'SPLODE!
CAN'T...EVEN... S-STAND!

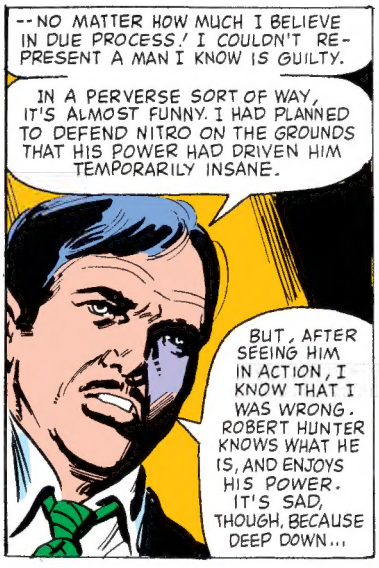

I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN EVEN TALK! THAT CANISTER WAS FULL OF NAUSEA GAS... YOU KNOW, THE STUFF USED TO BREAK UP RIOTS!
THE PARTICULAR BRAND PRODUCED BY CHEMICO HAPPENS TO COMBINE WITH OTHER GASES QUITE EASILY!
I FIGURED IT MIGHT COMBINE WITH YOUR VAPOR-FORM WHEN YOU EXPLODED... AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I WAS RIGHT!
THAT NAUSEA GAS IS NOW PART OF YOU CHEMISTRY, NITRO! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO BE SICK FOR A LONG TIME! I'M SORRY!

SOON, AFTER THE POLICE ARRIVE, WITH EMERSON BALE AND VIRGINIA HUNTER IN TOW...
IT WASN'T THE NICEST WAY TO STOP A MAN, BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE ME MUCH CHOICE.

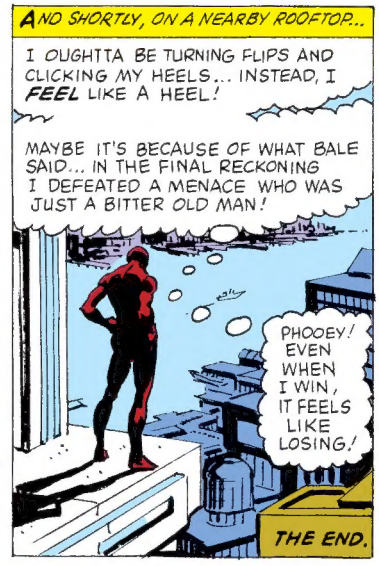
WE'D BETTER MAKE THIS TRIP SLOW AND STEADY, SAL.
GOTCHA! I'LL TRY TO AVOID THE BUMPS AND POTHOLES!
FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, MISS HUNTER, I'M SORRY IT TURNED OUT THIS WAY!
AMBULANCE
I UNDERSTAND, SPIDER-MAN. YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.

I'M JUST GLAD YOU STOPPED HIM BEFORE HE HURT ANYONE ELSE.


WELL, BALE, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
THAT'S HARD TO SAY. THE COURT WILL HAVE TO DECIDE IF NITRO IS WELL ENOUGH TO STAND TRIAL.
I'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MYSELF FROM THE CASE NOW. I COULDN'T DEFEND THAT MAN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE--


--NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BELIEVE IN DUE PROCESS! I COULDN'T REPRESENT A MAN I KNOW IS GUILTY.
IN A PERVERSE SORT OF WAY, IT'S ALMOST FUNNY. I HAD PLANNED TO DEFEND NITRO ON THE GROUNDS THAT HIS POWER HAD DRIVEN HIM TEMPORARILY INSANE.
BUT, AFTER SEEING HIM IN ACTION, I KNOW THAT I WAS WRONG. ROBERT HUNTER KNOWS WHAT HE IS, AND ENJOYS HIS POWER. IT'S SAD, THOUGH, BECAUSE DEEP DOWN...

...HE'S JUST A BITTER OLD MAN.
SPIDER-MAN?
BUT, THE YOUNG MAN BALE ADRESSES IS ALREADY SEVERAL STORIES STRAIGHT UP, SCURRYING AWAY INTO THE DARKENING SKIES...


AND SHORTLY, ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP...
I OUGHTTA BE TURNING FLIPS AND CLICKING MY HEELS... INSTEAD, I FEEL LIKE A HEEL!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF WHAT BALE SAID... IN THE FINAL RECKONING I DEFEATED A MENACE WHO WAS JUST A BITTER OLD MAN!
PHOOEY! EVEN WHEN I WIN, IT FEELS LIKE LOSING!
THE END.

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

DENNIS O'NEIL
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Roger,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 was good, any way you look at it. The storyline was nice and compact, in that you fit it all into two issues, along with the WHITE TIGER mini-series. (I'll get to that later.)

I was very surprised to see the shy, timid Debra Whitman gather up enough courage to crack Mysterio's helmet. I didn't think she had it in her. I anxiously await further developments in the Debra Whitman situation over the next few months.

I really liked the way Spider-Man gained control of Mysterio's illusions and traps. For once, Spidey had the upper hand, instead of the villain.

I noticed something at the end of the WHITE TIGER story. It said, "The Final Fate of the Tiger!" Does this mean he's going to be killed off? It sounds like it. Also, at the end, it said the next issue's story would be "The Hero Killers!" and the end of the SPIDER-MAN story said the same thing.

Let me guess... next issue there's going to be one big story, featuring Mace, his army, Spider-Man, the Tiger (if he lives), and maybe another hero. Then, you'll eliminate the WHITE TIGER series and go back to book-length stories. Whatever the case, PPTSS #52 should be a good one!

Mark Nemetz
45 Laurel Avenue
Clifton, NJ 07012

Dear Spider-people,

The cover of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 is an excellent addition to the gallery of artistic milestones which Frank Miller has been turning out lately. Keep him on the covers — and an occasional inside story — and I'll be one happy guy.

The writing on this book has taken great strides forward lately. Roger Stern is the consummate Marvel writer, and other Bullpen scripters would do well to study what the man has done for SPIDER-MAN and CAPTAIN AMERICA. Rog always manages to bring back the villains I want to see, and he's a master at character development and definition. Here, Spider-Man gets a chance to use his brain, as well as his powers. This is our Peter Parker. And Deb Whitman is one of the best new Marvel characters to come along in years. She's sort of what Peter Parker was like in the old days, when Stan wrote the book... shy, endearing, and resourceful. (Of course, the shtick of Peter standing her up is becoming a little stale... and it was avoided this issue only because she was kidnapped. But, I have faith that Rog'll straighten this out soon.)

Marie Severin! I'm speechless. When that lady puts pencil to paper, she reestablishes herself as one of the finest artists in comics. She's a demon when it comes to storytelling, and she never fails to have Pete doing something spidery. This was never demonstrated so well as in the sequence with the holographic images of Spider-Man in constantly differing stages of motion.

Jim Mooney is one of the best Spider-inkers... that really should go without saying. Also, Jim Novak stands alongside Joe Rosen and Tom Orzechowski as one of comics' best calligraphers. Christie Scheele's coloring was real decent, as well.

All in all, a very nice package, people. Keep up the good work.

Vance Borden
Ansonia, CT 06401

Dear Marvel,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 had a fantastic cover, but it had nothing to do with the story. It would have been nice to see Spider-Man battling Mysterio on the set of a science fiction film, but it didn't happen. (By the way, who drew the cover?)

The story this issue was enjoyable, though. I particularly liked the scenes in which Spider-Man used illusions against Mysterio — it's about time he got a taste of his own medicine — and Deb Whitman struck out at Mysterio (nice to see her showing a little gumption). Oh, and the scene of the supposed alien listening to the radio and drinking beer was a nice comic touch.

The art was good, too — but I don't think Jim Mooney's inks go that well with Marie's pencils.

Barry Dutter
2283 Old Farm Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Actually, Barry, the cover wasn't meant to show an actual scene from the story, just to portray a symbolic overview of the issue... Debra Whitman threatened, as Spider-Man defeats Mysterio in the midst of special effects illusions. Vance Borden correctly recognized Frank Miller as the cover penciler. Inks were laid down by Josef Rubinstein.

Dear Roger,

The cover to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #51 was fantastic! Who but Spider-Man could both pin the bad guy's arms and hit him at the same time? That's a great concept, to show Spider-Man's prowess in both the brawn and agility departments.

By the way, Mr. Stern, the best touch in this fine story has to be page 16. There, in panel 2, Spider-Man thinks, "These computerized control systems are complicated, but I think I have them programmed pretty much the way I want..." Just three panels later, Mysterio thinks, "He has to stay in the control room... unless he's pre-programmed the computer systems! And only a scientific wizard could do that!"

I'm interested in next issue's "Hero Killers." But I'm not so sure I could say that I'm looking forward to it...

Rick S. Jones
Cedarville College
Cedarville, OH 45314

Well, Rick, what can I say but... I'm both interested in *and* looking forward to your reactions — positive or negative — to SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #52, Rick.

And that goes for everyone out there! I personally read each and every letter sent to PPTSS. Your letters of comment are the only way I can get a handle on what you like and what you want to see in these pages. It may sound a bit hackneyed, but you fine folks are the ultimate editors on this book. Just tell me what you want, okay?

Dear Roger,

I've stuck with PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN since its inception. There have been good stories and bad ones, but I truly believe that with issue #51 the title has really proven itself. Until now, this has always been the second Spider-Man mag, but you have finally hit the top of the ladder, equalling the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

The appearance of Mysterio was great. You need more such top-notch villains to produce a really great comic. (Speaking of top-notch, bring back Mary Jane Watson!)

I loved the story this issue, but — good as she is — I don't think that Marie Severin is exactly right for SPIDER-MAN. How about getting John Byrne?

Mark Waldman
9639 Amigo Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324

John's on his way, Mark. He'll be here with issue #58!

--Roger Stern

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #76** — **Giant-Man** and the **Iceman** join the ever-lovin', blue-eyed **Thing!**
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #38** — Guest-starring the uncanny ***X-Men!***
- ☐ **STAR TREK #14** — "We Are Dying, Egypt, Dying!"
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #171** — DD vs. the Kingpin!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES #98** — (Reprints Hulk #149) — "The Inheritor from Beyond!"
- ☐ **DAZZLER #4** — Final battle with **Dr. Doom!** Plus: *Nightmare!*
- ☐ **KA-ZAR #3** — The fear-fraught fate of Shanna!
- ☐ **KING CONAN # 6** — Conan's quest for his kidnapped queen!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217** — *Sand-Man* and *Hydro-Man* team up and attack!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #258** — Who is ...*Blockbuster?*
- ☐ **THOR #308** — Loki and Karnilla attack New York!
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #30** — "To Save Homeworld!"
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #57** — Enter: The Apparition!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SHE-HULK #17** — "Make Way for...the Man-Elephant!"
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #8** — Moon Knight goes *mad!*
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #47** — Dr. Stange — powerless against Ikonn, the master of illustion!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #260** — Showdown in Japan with Glenn Talbot!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #208** — The mad menace of the eternal warrior called the *Berserker!*
- ☐ **CONAN #123** — "Horror Beneath the Hills!"
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #128** — (Reprints Spider-Man # 151) — The shocking return of a suprise super-villain!
- ☐ **X-MEN #146** — The old and new X-Men at the mercy of ***Dr. Doom!*** Plus: Arcade!
- ☐ **ROM #19** — ROM is trapped in Limbo — with all his old foes!
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST # 70** — Cage and the Fist hot on the trail of drug smugglers!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #231** — Stygiax blasts the Baxter Building into the Negative Zone!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #106** — Spidey and **Captain America!**
- ☐ **IRON MAN #147** — A crisis called...*Blacklash!*
- ☑ **PETER PARKER #55** — The menace of Nitro, the Exploding Man!
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #96** — The Defenders and **Ghost Rider** at the mercy of the Six-Fingered Hand!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #32** — (Reprints Avengers #71) The Avengers and the Black Knight vs. The Grand-Master and Kang!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #48** — Leia and Vader play a strange game of power, propoganda,... and Death!
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #101** — *"Not Smoke, Nor Beads, Nor Blood!"*
- ☐ **MARVEL PREMIERE #60** — Featuring... **Dr. Who! Cover painting by** *Paul Gulacy.*
- ☐ **SGT. FURY #164** — (Reprints Sgt. Fury #70) — Meet: the Missouri Marauders!
- ☐ **WHAT IF #27** — *"What If **Phoenix** Had Lived?"*

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #74** — "Crazy Cars of the Future"; "Finger vs. Finger"; "The Elephink Man!"; a "Dallas" parody; Kinetic Kids; Obnoxio; Howard the Duck; and more. Whew!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #64** — The terrible secret of the "Children of Rhan!"
- ☐ **MARVEL PREVIEW #26** — King Kull stars in Doug Moench and **John Bolton's** "Demon In a Silvered Glass!", featuring some of the finest artwork to ever grace a Marvel production. And the writing ain't nothin' to sneeze at, either!